



Every school year, asthma accounts for an estimated 14 million missed school days by students and staff.

According to a 1999 National Center for Education Statistics report, 43 percent of America's public schools—about 33,800 schools—reported at least one unsatisfactory environmental condition. Research reports suggest that students attending schools in poor condition score 11 percent lower on standardized tests than students attending schools in good condition. Mold, re-circulation of contaminated air, restricted fresh air intake, and pest infestation can create poor indoor air quality. Exposure to contaminants can trigger asthma and allergic sensitivities among students and staff.

In 1995, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) introduced the *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools (IAQ TFS)* Program to help schools recognize the importance of managing school facilities to maintain a healthy indoor environment. *IAQ TFS* is a nationwide initiative to help school officials assess, resolve, and prevent IAQ problems and reduce exposure to asthma triggers and other harmful pollutants in school facilities. The *IAQ TFS* Symposium highlights efforts schools can take to implement *IAQ TFS* and maintain a healthy school environment.

When?

EPA will host its 6th Annual *IAQ TFS* National Symposium on January 12-14, 2006, in Washington, DC.

What?

Innovative sessions addressing various topics associated with implementing an IAQ program in a school setting, include communicating IAQ issues among stakeholders in the local community, designing, building, and maintaining healthy schools, school commissioning, mold and moisture, IAQ litigation, sustaining IAQ practices, materials selection and maintenance, asthma management, and more. Winners of EPA's prestigious *IAQ TFS* Excellence Award (www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/iaqtfsawards.html) will be recognized at an awards luncheon ceremony.

Who?

School board officials, school decision makers, school administrators, architects, school nurses, teachers, facility managers, school and health association members, parents, and others interested in maintaining good indoor air quality in our nation's schools.

Where?

The Grand Hyatt Hotel (<http://grandwashington.hyatt.com/property/index.jhtml>) is conveniently located at Metro Center in downtown Washington, D.C.

For More Information...

Registration opens July 1st, and the registration fee is \$300.00 per person. Registration and additional information is available at www.iaqsymposium.com.